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issue 6, volume 85 | www.newbuffalotimes.com | Thursday, February 5, 2026

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CONCERNED CITIZENS...
TOWN HALL SPOTLIGHTS MARIJUANA DISPENSARY CONCERNS

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Periodical Postage paid in New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster, please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
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Cookies sales commence in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Cookie season has arrived in New Buffalo.

Kelly Billing, the leader of New Buffalo Junior Girl Scout Troop 56029, and her daughter, troop member Chiara Quinn, were parked at Barney's Market selling Girl Scout cookies Saturday, Jan. 31.

Chiara Quinn and Kelly Billing sell Girl Scout cookies at Barney's

Billing said that proceeds from this year's cookie sales will go toward a camping trip at either a Girl Scout campground in northern Michigan or in the Upper Peninsula.

"We're going to see how much we earn and what we can do," she said.

This year's cookie line-up includes Thin Mints, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Adventurefuls, Lemonades, Trefoils®, Peanut Butter Sandwich, the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip and, new this year, Exploremores, which Billing said are "Rocky Road and almond fudge.

For those who don't want to buy a box, boxes can be donated to Military of Northern Indiana-Michiana.

Quinn, who was a Daisy and a Brownie, said that her favorite cookies are Lemonades and Adventurefuls.

"I like putting them in the microwave," she said.

Her favorite part of being a Girl Scout has been "volunteering with the Humane Society." The troop has also taken fields trips to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and Your Truly in St. Joe to make journals.

The New Buffalo Junior Girl Scout Troop 56029 is part of Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana, which stretches from Fort Wayne to St. Joseph, Michigan, and its service unit is Southwest Michigan Service Unit 201.

Billing said they've been doing a lot of events through the Service Unit, such as one at Whirlpool and another in the engineering department at the University of Notre Dame.

Earning badges is another time-honored part of being a Girl Scout.

"Every year, they move to a different level and then you have to start all over on your badges," Billing said.

The troop plans to sell cookies at other local spots, which can be found at https://www.girlscoutsnorthernindiana-michiana.org/. Cookies can also be purchased at https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org. Cookies can even be delivered for free.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION TO BENEFIT NEIGHBOR BY NEIGHBOR

Hummingbird Lounge is thrilled to announce its fourth annual Mardi Gras Party, which will benefit Neighbor By Neighbor, from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14.

The stylish and charming restaurant, craft cocktail bar and event venue set in a beautifully re-imagined Victorian-era home will treat guests to the flavors, sounds and vibes of New Orlean.

Tickets are priced at $30 per person and are now available online at www.hummingbirdlounge.com or can be purchased at the door.

Guests will be greeted by vibrant decor, strands of beads, and immersed in the sounds of The Big Easy thanks to a live band. Hummingbird's executive chef will be serving a themed buffet. One signature cocktail is included in the price of each ticket, and the bar will be open all night long.

A percentage of sales from the event will be donated directly to Neighbor by Neighbor, a local 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting the local community.

Hummingbird Lounge is located at 9 S Barton St in New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

The antidote for Vehemence? Patience ... *— Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Town hall spotlights marijuana dispensary concerns

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

More than 120 concerned residents and people form the surrounding area aired concerns at a "Crime, Cars and Cannabis" town hall at the New Buffalo Township Public Safety Building Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Currently, the township has 29 marijuana dispensaries open, with five or six more before the end of this year.

The township held three public hearings that Berrien County Sheriff's Office Lt. Thad Chartrand said were "very sparsely attended" by residents, with some meeting attendees claiming that they weren't aware of the hearings, before opting in to allow marijuana establishments in April 2023.

The board adopted an ordinance to put a moratorium on accepting new applications for marijuana establishments in March 2024. Prior to that, approximately 50 applications were accepted, with some being withdrawn by the applicant or expiring. The township board also denied some applications.

The board adopted an ordinance to put a moratorium on accepting new applications for marijuana establishments in March 2024. Prior to that, approximately 50 applications were accepted, with some being withdrawn by the applicant or expiring. The township board also denied some applications.

A year ago, an ordinance was adopted prohibiting new establishments.

Chartrand said that the township "didn't want to limit the number of dispensaries, so that the township couldn't just be picking winners and losers."

"They were concerned about what kind of backlash, how that would look for them going forward and tie them up in unnecessary litigation," he said.

Supervisor Michelle Heit said that there were "probably more than we anticipated."

"There were some land splits we didn't anticipate - we definitely thought the market would dictate how many opened and that's not what happened," she said.

There were 1,574 calls for service in the township last year that were handled by the Sheriff's Office's contractual service for township residents, which consists of four patrol deputies and Chartrand.

Chartrand said the number of dispensary-related calls increased due to there being more of them, with calls for service being 174 in 2024 and 197 in 2025. He said that this equates to being less than 8 percent for the township annually, with most being for private property crashes, alarms and medical calls.

The township received $349,371.96 from marihuana state revenue sharing in 2025, which was allocated for roads. The township invested $372,406 in roadways and road maintenance in 2025. Based on $55,000 per dispensary, the estimated funding for 2026 is approximately $1.4 million.

Chartrand said that the township has seen the dispensaries "revitalize areas with no tax revenue" and improve "blighted commercial areas."

Township Board Treasurer Patty Iazzetto said that said local businesses, including restaurants and shops, are seeing "recording breaking sales" due to the dispensaries.

Residents expressed road safety concerns, with Jonelle Andre saying the township needs "more officers and more training."

"You should be putting the money into officers giving them more money, giving them more officers, giving them more training because it's got to be stopped behind the wheel before people get killed," she said, adding she thinks "it's disgusting you guys are supporting this because it's a drug."

Saying New Buffalo is now known as the "Weed Capital of the Midwest," Denise Churchill added that there should be "earmarked dispensary related tax revenues specifically for increased law enforcement and code enforcement," as well as the installation of a traffic light at the corner of Wilson Road and U.S. 12, enforcement cameras at the Exit One stop sign, unmarked police vehicles at the Exit One corridor, better line painting at the traffic light at M-239 Harbor Country Road and Wilson Road and a sidewalk and walkway for pedestrians to cross Harbor Country Drive and M-239 at the same light.

She also requested the creation of a "citizen advisory group to review dispensary impacts annually and provide formal recommendations" to the board and to "continue to hold operators accountable for nuisance behavior, loitering and violations."

Charlee Churchill said that the "countless marijuana shops in New Buffalo surrounding Exit One and along U.S. 12 are extremely dangerous for drivers, especially for teen drivers, like myself."

Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet. — *Albert Einstein*

Jonelle Andre shares her concerns while Lt. Thad Chartrand looks on

Township board member Barbara Anderson, clerk Michelle Hannon and supervisor Michelle Heit listen to concerns

Denise Churchill shares her concerns while Lt. Thad Chartrand looks on

"Cars coming off Exit One don't stop at the stop sign…Near both Exit One and along U.S. 12, cars don't use turn signals – they speed, abruptly slam on breaks and swerve in and out of lanes constantly," she said.

Charlee said that she and her family assisted in the clean-up of Wilson Road, where she found "numerous empty weed and vape products."

Chartrand said a five-month pilot within the Sheriff's Office and their patrol deputies are on 12-hour shifts, which has allowed him to work from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and have two cars working. The Sheriff's Office has agreed to provide another traffic car for the township this summer, so there'd be two cars seven days a week when the dispensaries are open.

Chartrand said that they requested Michigan Department of Transportation conduct a survey on U.S. Highway 12 and "how do we control traffic, how do we help people get off Wilson Road onto U.S. 12." He said MDOT removed their traffic counters after five days, saying that they'd let them "know what's going to go on in two years."

"We decided we would purchase our own (counters) and kind of help them along by saying, 'These are the numbers,'" Chartrand said.

Saying that MDOT is "reactive not proactive," Sheriff Chuck Heit said that, if there haven't been five crashes within a 12-16 month period, MDOT isn't "going to do a lot." He said they've requested blinking signs to be installed without success.

In the future, letters from residents to politicians may be warranted, Sheriff Heit said.

Chartrand added that they've been assured by MDOT that there will be "No U-Turn" signs posted along M-239 before this year's 4/20 holiday.

Joan Wyse, who said their home along U.S. 12 has several dispensaries within its vicinity, said that they bring their grandchildren inside from their yard "because it's so skunky smelling, so don't tell me they're not smoking in the parking lots."

Melinda Bush, who said she's been a substance abuse counselor, said she's witnessed "dense fog" coming through the area when driving in the summertime at night. She said she's concerned for the children that live there "especially babies because they don't metabolize it like we do, so they're ingesting this as parents are driving."

"They're not supposed to be smoking and driving, they're not supposed to be firing it up as they're walking out of the dispensary but obviously, they are," she said.

Sheriff Heit said that it's illegal to smoke marijuana in public; however, the Michigan Supreme Court "made that the smell of marijuana from a human is not probable cause for searching a car."

"It is if we have a canine there but a lot of times because marijuana is legal our canines aren't even trained in cannabis because it's legal to have it a certain level in the car," he said.

He added that smoking marijuana in public is a civil infraction.

Becky Borglin said she's concerned that the dispensaries are now all that New Buffalo is known for, sending a negative message to visitors and area youth.

"We need a PR campaign where we highlight the good things, we highlight the kids in our school systems - we teach that yes, it's legal but that doesn't mean it's the best choice for you – we need education and events sponsored, with all this money, that will teach the kids and promote some family-type festivals," she said.

Chartrand said that three dispensaries last year paid to bring VIVE18, a drug prevention program, to the school and have committed to continue bringing that type of program there again.

Property values are also a concern, with one resident who lives right off Lubke Road saying that their house has gone down $50,000 in value since the dispensaries have opened. Heit said that their assessor hasn't mentioned properties going down in value.

Chartrand said a meeting will be held with dispensaries in March to discuss issues, including traffic, ahead of 4/20.

PostBoy owners, chef James Galbraith and Ben Holland

NEW BUFFALO CHEF NAMED JAMES BEARD AWARD SEMIFINALIST

James Galbraith, chef/co-owner at PostBoy New Buffalo, has been named a semifinalist in the "Best Chef: Great Lakes category of the 2026 James Beard Awards.

According to a James Beard Foundation press release, the awards are presented by Capital One and "represent the pinnacle of culinary recognition in the US."

"Since their inception in 1990, the Restaurant and Chef Awards have made icons out of the nation's top restaurant and bar professionals. Today, these semifinalists join a constellation of James Beard Award–recognized leaders who collectively embody the breadth of American culinary excellence," the release said.

Restaurant and Chef nominees will be announced on Tuesday, March 31, and winners will be celebrated at the James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 15, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

For a complete list of semifinalists, visit www.jamesbeard.org.

Located at 207 N. Whittaker Street in New Buffalo, PostBoy, which is co-owned by Galbraith and Ben Holland, "is a chef-driven indoor/outdoor restaurant and gathering place in the heart of New Buffalo where midwestern warmth meets a global point of view," as stated at www.postboynb.com. — STAFF REPORTS

Another prison smuggling attempt thwarted

BY STAN MADDUX

A 19-year-old man could face significant time behind bars for the most recent drug smuggling attempt at a La Porte County prison.

Halton Maleek Duke, 19, of Michigan City is charged in La Porte Superior Court 2 with dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, and Level 5 felony trafficking with an inmate.

According to court documents, a man later identified as Duke somehow entered the grounds of Westville Correctional Facility early on Jan. 20.

A prison security officer spotted the man throw a duffel bag and backpack over an inside fence behind two prison dormitories, according to court documents.

According to court documents, the man was then spotted running toward the outer fence line, authorities said.

He pulled on the fence line until the lower portion of the fence line lifted, allowing him to crawl out from under the barrier.

Prison security and La Porte County Sheriff's deputies following footprints in the snow located Duke hiding behind a nearby business on U.S. 421, authorities said.

According to court documents, one of the bags contained slightly more than 38 grams of methamphetamine, two 16-ounce packages of tobacco, 31 individual bags of marijuana, 14 cellular devices and a variety of other items such as two bags of THC infused gummies and six packs of rolling papers.

Other items in the bag included cell phone charger cords and adapters, vape cartridges containing nicotine, a lighter, 10 packs of socks, six packs of men's boxer briefs, a set of headphones, scalp cream, two screw driver sets and a bottle of castor oil containing biotin and collagen.

Large amounts of tobacco, marijuana and over a dozen cell phones were among the other similar items seized from the backpack, authorities said.

The backpack also contained eight tubes of super glue, a bottle of acetone and two sheets of paper that appeared with be saturated with an unknown substance, authorities said.

A number of other people were charged last year in separate incidents for attempting to smuggle drugs and other contraband into WCF and the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Some of those attempts involved the use of drones and were foiled with help from the prison's drone detection system.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said he could not discuss specifics about the most recent case since the outcome is still pending in court.

But, in general, he said money is sometimes the incentive for someone to try and get a large amount of contraband into a penal facility.

"People don't do things for free," he said.

Fagan also said smuggling attempts at prisons happen periodically since high enough demand already exists from inside the walls.

"If people want it, they're going to try to find a way to get it and, sometimes, those attempts are successful. Sometimes, they're not," he said.

Fagan said his office works closely with both prisons and local law enforcement agencies to land convictions in such cases, which could influence others to decide against taking such a chance.

"We are working on stemming the tide," he said.

Indoor Community Market returns this month

The Community Market will return to the New Troy Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14.

This month's market will feature Valentine activities for all ages, as well as local makers, crafters, and merchants selling farm-to-market foods and personal care products, 3D printed creations, ceramics, antiques, collectibles, fiber crafts, coffee, boho clothing, flannels, jewelry, photographic prints, essential oils, baked goodies, toys, and home decor.

A hot, homemade lunch will be served by volunteers as a fundraiser for a much-needed new roof. February's menu includes turkey pot pie soup, vegetarian lentil soup, and soft drinks.

Up to 21 paid-forward bowls of soup will be available for anyone who could use a complimentary hot meal.

The History Room, Activities Room, and Little Free Pantry will also be open.

Markets will continue the second Saturday of every month, through April.

Located at 13372 California Road in New Troy, New troy Community Center is owned, operated, and maintained by volunteer members of Friends of New Troy, a non-profit 501(c)3. — STAFF REPORTS

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FIRE CHIEF RUNNING FOR JUDGE

The fire chief in Long Beach, who's also a longtime attorney, is seeking the republican nomination for judge of La Porte Superior Court 3.

Kurt Earnst is running in the May primary in hopes of succeeding Judge Jeffrey Thorne, who is retiring at the end of his term this year.

Earnst cited his 29 years of trial experience throughout various federal, state and local courts for being qualified for the position, saying that experience, temperament and civility are paramount qualities a judge must possess.

"My philosophy in serving on the bench is a strict adherence to the law and a solemn vow that all that come before the court must be treated with dignity, fairness and respect. Those appearing in court are there for a fair resolution of their disputes and a judge must be mindful of applying the law and facts to the case to provide justice," he said.

For over 20 years, Earnst was an attorney and partner with the law firm of Braje, Nelson, & Janes in Michigan City. Earnst has spent the past year as a federal community defender in the Northern District of Indiana.

Throughout his career, Earnst has primarily focused on litigation in criminal, civil and family law matters. For 26 years, Earnst was a deputy public defender in La Porte County representing criminal defendants on felony and misdemeanor matters. He was also legal counsel for the Michigan City Public Library for over 15 Years.

Earnst was also a founding and active member of the La Porte County Veteran's Treatment Court Program administered by Superior Court 3. The program aimed more at recovery is designed to assist veterans who find themselves in the criminal justice system due to issues suffered as a result of their service.

"It was my honor and privilege to be able to participate in this program and assist those who have honorably served our country," he said.

Earnst is also a past volunteer judge with the Michigan City Teen Court Program as well as a past board member and past board president of the Michigan City Boys and Girls Club.

Earnst is a 27-year member of the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Fleeing driver admits to fatally striking husband

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City woman has admitted to killing her husband by running him over with a vehicle she was fleeing in during a dispute.

Miranda Eggleston-Suarez, 37, pleaded guilty to Level 2 felony voluntary manslaughter, which carries a sentencing range of 10 to 30 years.

The plea agreement calls for her to receive a 13-year prison sentence along with five additional years split between community corrections and probation.

In exchange for the plea, she would avoid a potential 45-to-65-year sentence under a murder charge prosecutors agreed to dismiss.

La Porte Superior Court 1 Judge Jamie Oss will sentence Suarez if she accepts the terms of the plea agreement during a hearing scheduled for March 5.

According to court documents, the investigation reveals she and Kyle Suarez, 24, were arguing outside their home at Tall Timbers Apartments in October of 2023.

At one point, an angry Mr. Saurez based on eyewitness accounts charged toward another woman outside her nearby apartment and for unknown reasons pushed her to the ground, police said.

Police said Mrs. Saurez ran to her car, got behind the wheel and stomped on the gas pedal.

Her vehicle barely missed the woman before the front end hit Suarez who was knocked to the ground and run over by one of the tires in the parking lot of the apartment complex, according to court documents.

Mrs. Saurez then crashed into a parked vehicle a short distance away and fled.

Officers were still at the scene investigating when she returned and was taken into custody.

Under Indiana law, a person must have had the intent to kill with some planning in advance possibly involved to be charged with murder.

Voluntary manslaughter has more to do with actions provoked under sudden heat or rage.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said both sides during their settlement negotiations agreed her actions best fit the criteria for voluntary manslaughter.

He said it's not uncommon to develop a clearer picture behind the actions of defendants as they proceed closer toward a possible trial.

"That the way the case went. A case starts one way, kind of goes in another way and as you investigate, that's what you see," he said.

Suarez is also facing a charge of Level 4 felony burglary filed nearly a year after her arrest.

According to court documents, she's accused of trying to recruit two female inmates in her cell block to break into the home of her former attorney in the death case.

She was hoping the inmates would bail themselves out of jail and find money in the home.

Suarez wanted them to give her enough of the money for her to post bond and keep what was left for themselves, authorities said.

Her plot was uncovered when the offenders were found with papers containing her former attorney's address and other personal information, court documents revealed.

Authorities said Suarez obtained the personal information from documents the attorney left by mistake in paperwork from the death case he gave her to review.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

While I was spending countless hours (probably around 36 in the last three days) attempting to remember or find passwords that I hadn't needed to know for over a decade, I realized that it would have probably served me well to have spent a little less time reading the sports pages, and a little more time on more practical things.

Last week, I decided to change phone companies, internet providers, and, just to make things a bit more complicated, get a new phone.

After spending a few hours at the phone store, getting a lot done, we had to wrap it up because we couldn't continue without some passwords.

Getting the internet set up, to my surprise, was the least challenging job, and a false sense of confidence overcame me. We have quite a few gadgets in our house, and pairing all of them turned into quite a challenge. A couple of televisions, speakers, a watch, Amazon Alexa devices, etc. etc. I finally got some of the connections done, but I'm going to have to go back to the store tomorrow and ask for more help.

Fortunately, I was able to get the television working in time to watch the Grammys on Sunday night.

Like sports, music is something I truly love, and I find some parallels between the two. The Grammys are so fun for me to watch. Where else can you hear new artists singing their beautiful songs right next to singers who have been entertaining me since I was a kid. I love music of all kinds and it was all represented on the Grammys.

I'm not saying I liked every song or every singer, but I don't like the Saint Louis Cardinals or Green Bay Packers either. Currently, I am going to try to do what Bad Bunny said when he accepted his first award. He said something to the effect of the only way you can beat hate is with love.

Moving on to sports, the Super Bowl will take place this weekend and it should be an exciting finish to a great season. The Bears weren't the only team that came back to relevancy this year.

The city's who's teams brought them joy instead of despair contributed to the growth in popularity of football, and it's amazing to me that other sports don't learn anything from football's example.

Pitchers and catchers report two days after the Super Bowl is played, so there won't be a dry spell between seasons.

The White Sox, after three consecutive one hundred loss seasons, seem to be ready to compete again this year. The Cubs appear ready to finally dethrone the Milwaukee Brewers this year and have a serious run for the championship. The Dodgers though, are standing in the way and just keep spending money like drunken sailors. It will be very difficult to get past them.

Babe Ruth said, "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

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NEIGHBORS AND ROLE MODE
and to put charity and community firs
St. Mary of the Lake
Council 14366
New Buffalo, MI

New Buffalo youth named local Free Throw champions

Six boys and girls from New Buffalo ages 9 to 14 were named local champions of the 2026 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship and have earned the right to compete at the district level.

St. Mary of the Lake Council 14366 in New Buffalo sponsored the local competition at St. Mary of the Lake School Gym. All youths who were aged 9 to 14 were eligible to participate.

The 9-year-old champion was Tessa Rowland in the girls' bracket. Gus Croskey was the winner of the 10-year-old boys' division. In the 11-year-old bracket, Monroe Grzywacz was the girls' champion. The 12-year-old winner in the girls' division was Lile Roland. The 13-year-old girl's division was won by Annabelle Gross. The 14-year-old champion was Justus Rowland in the boys' bracket.

Each of these winners competed in the district competition Feb. 1 at St. Mary of the Lake School Gym, with an eye toward moving on to the jurisdisctional and international levels.

Council 14366 in New Buffalo is one of 16,000 Knights of Columbus councils that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately 2 million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally with financial contributions and hands-on service. — STAFF REPORTS

We all fly. Once you leave the ground, you fly. Some people fly longer than others.
— Michael Jordan

Raiders beat Titans at home in girls basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders remained undefeated in conference play after defeating Michigan Lutheran 29-19 in a home game at New Buffalo High School on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Both teams on offense began slowly with the Titans leading 3-0 until junior Laney Strother nailed a three-point shot from the baseline with just over two minutes left in the first quarter.

Strother early in the second quarter hit another three-point shot and soon an 18-foot jump shot to put the Raiders ahead 8-3.

Following a bucket from the Titans, the lead was extended to nine points on a pair of free throws and short field goal by junior Shyann Spaulding and sophomore Addison Lynch off a steal dribbling in from half court for a lay-up.

Michigan Lutheran came roaring back to within one point during the first two minutes of the second quarter.

However, the Raiders went back up by five points when sophomore Lila Lugbill nailed a 12-foot jump shot after Lynch stole the ball again at half court and drove in for a lay-up.

The Titans remained in striking distance until New Buffalo started pulling away mid-way through the fourth quarter beginning when junior Peyton Swain drilled a three-point shot.

The lead grew to 10 points when Strother while driving the baseline put the ball into the rim from close to the net.

The last score for the Raiders came with about two minutes to play when Spaulding drove in for a short bucket to increase the lead to 12 points.

Strother led the Raiders with eight points while Spaulding and Lynch each had seven points.

The Raiders improved to 3-0 in their division of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference and 4-5 overall.

Raiders Head Coach Jason Alexander said the win was encouraging because Michigan Lutheran, historically, has been very competitive and the defense of his team helped make up for continued problems by the offense with committing turnovers.

"I thought as a team we played pretty good," he said.

He also liked the effort of his players against a program with a reputation of giving 100-percent from beginning to end.

"They're going to come and compete every night. That's the tradition that we're trying to build here," he said.

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Bison defeat Titans in home thriller

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team is back in the hunt for a conference title after defeating Michigan Lutheran 51-50 at home on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

The victory pulled the Bison to within one game behind Michigan Lutheran in their division of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference.

The Bison lost to the Titans on the road by five points on Dec. 9.

New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp said the victory should be a confidence booster for his team, which also lost to Michigan Lutheran for the District 4 title last season.

Tripp said he believes the victory sent a message that New Buffalo after some early season struggles is now running on all cylinders.

It was the fourth consecutive victory for the Bison, who improved to 8-6 and 8-3 in conference play.

"Michigan Lutheran is as tough as nails," he said.

The Titans scored the first four points of the game, but a three point shot from senior Nick Haskins seemed to ignite the Bison, who led 11-6 after the first quarter.

The Titans, though, came back to take a two point lead in the second quarter but New Buffalo went ahead again on a three point shot from sophomore Colton Lijewski after a short bucket from senior Brysun Perry.

Lijewski soon increased the lead to four points on a fast moving drive in lay-up set up with a pass from junior Braeden Bergerson.

The Titans later regained a one point lead.

However, the Bison went into halftime up by two points after Lijewski hit another three point shot with less than 30 seconds left in the quarter.

Michigan Lutheran took charge late in the third quarter by opening up a seven point lead.

The lead was reduced to five points after Lijewski stole the ball and passed it to Haskins for a short bucket heading into the fourth quarter.

The Bison later narrowed the lead to two points but found themselves trailing again by five points with less than three minutes to play.

New Buffalo after buckets from Lijewski and senior Lucas Forker trailed by one point with less than a minute left on the game clock.

The game was decided in the final seconds when the scrappy Haskins dove for a loose ball and grabbed it then passed the ball down court to Lijewski, who was fouled while driving in for a lay-up.

Lijewski hit both free throws to put the Bison up by one point for good.

Haskins said he didn't hesitate to dive for the ball feeling it was a must win game against an opponent they could face again in the post season.

"Whatever I can do for the team. Feels great," he said.

Lijewski led the Bison with 14 points while Forker added 11 points and Haskins 8 points.

Two days later, New Buffalo won at Howardsville Christian 60-51.

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YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO THE BEST IN NEW BUFFALO, AND BEYOND!

FEBRUARY 5, THURSDAY: Frozen Weekend at Full Tilt Arcade La Porte, IN (through Sunday February 8) [Free]

FEBRUARY 6, FRIDAY: Ice Fest in Downtown St. Joseph (through Sunday February 8) [Free]

FEBRUARY 6, FRIDAY: Macrame Heart Making Class at JLN Studio in Stevensville 6pm[Registration]

FEBRUARY 6, FRIDAY: Karaoke Night at SideYard in Sawyer 7pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY: Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge at Watermark Brewing 10 am [Free] followed by live music and after party

FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY: Grown-Up Book Fair at Round Barn Winery 1-4pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY: Harbor Country Hikers Song Dogs Hike at Harbert Road Preserve 1pm[Free]

FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY: Murder Mystery Dinner at Lakeside Inn 7:30pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY: Night Sky Hike at Weko Beach 8pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 8, SUNDAY: Galentine's Brunch at Leed's Public House in Michigan City 11am [More Info]

FEBRUARY 8, SUNDAY: Galentine's 80s Brunch at Heron Bistro 11am [Reservations]

FEBRUARY 8, SUNDAY: Crushed Glass Crafting Party at Chill Hill Winery 2pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 8, SUNDAY: Superbowl Watch Parties at Union Pier Social, Sonny D's, and more

FEBRUARY 9, MONDAY: Valentine's Day Story Time at the NB Library 10 am [FREE]

FEBRUARY 9, MONDAY: Mambo Monday at Tapa Taco in Union Pier 7pm [More info]

FEBRUARY 11, WEDNESDAY: Hands-on Mushroom Workshop at Berrien County Conservation District in Berrien Springs 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 12, THURSDAY: Cocktail Class at Local Pour 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY: Valentine Cocktail Amore Class at St. Julian in Union Pier 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY: Valentine's Day Comedy Show at Sonny D's 8pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY: Cupid's Strike Theme Night at Peat's Cider Social 4-10pm [More info]

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY: Galentine's Day: Dinner + Drinks at Granor Farm 7pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: Gather & Community Market at New Troy Community Center 10am-2pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: Valentine's Day Pre-Fixe Dinners at Tabor Hill Winery, Shoreline Brewery, Granor Farm, Journeyman Three Oaks, Longstory [Reservations Required]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: Galentine's Share the Love at Baroda Soda 2pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: Mardi Gras Celebration at Hummingbird Lounge 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: Weird Valentine's Day at the Acorn 8pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: PS Dump Your Boyfriend at Kankakee Live/Four Winds 10pm [More Info]

FEBRUARY 14, SATURDAY: The Love Seat: Dinner & Stories at Viola Café and Vickers Theater from Story Club SW Michigan 5:30pm[Tickets]

FEBRUARY 15, SUNDAY: Snowshoeing at Dablon Vineyard 1pm [More Info]

FEBRUARY 15, SUNDAY: Valentine's Trivia at Round Barn Brewery & Public House 1pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 16, MONDAY: Jazz Night featuring Bill Romer & friends at Shoreline Brewery 8pm[Free]

FEBRUARY 20, FRIDAY: It's Complicated – a post-valentine comedy night at Round Barn Brewery & Public House 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 21, SATURDAY: Beginners Gnome Needle Felting Class [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 21, SATURDAY: Shelf Ice Brewfest in Downtown Michigan City 1pm [Tickets] with live music after parties at Shoreline Brewery and Burn 'Em Brewing

FEBRUARY 21, SATURDAY: Michigan City Black Expo – Small Business Pop Up in Michigan City 12-6pm [Free]

FEBRUARY 26, THURSDAY: Cookie Decorating Class at Solasta Winery 6pm [Tickets]

FEBRUARY 28, SATURDAY: Hands-On Science: The Great Paper Airplane Challenge at Bridgman Library 12pm [Free]

All times listed are in the time zone where the happening is held. If it's in Michigan, it's EST. If it's in Indiana, it's CST (unless it's in the South Bend area which is EST).

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

I want more of the same...

Again, time marched on. Bobby and I were within striking distance of wrapping up Popples and I was already missing the little guys. They were just so cute. I realized what I felt with Popples coming to an end was similar to what I felt after Care Bears was over, and I wondered about that. I loved my brief detour into story editing and writing episodes of M.A.S.K., all the action and adventure. But I found something odd about my being drawn to working on softer series like Popples and Care Bears.

Look, I'm a tough guy, raised on Chicago's south side. I came home from school with more than my share of bloody noses and broken fingers from fights. In the Air Force I was an aerospace medic, part of a helicopter search-and-rescue team whose mission was to pick up downed pilots and crewmembers.

After my Air Force hitch, I moved to L.A. and got into the entertainment business. I'd find out it was rough, too. But for now I was writing and story editing, and after all the rough stuff I'd gone through in my life, I found myself liking softer television series. That was why I was already missing Popples and why I hoped I'd get another 'softer' series to work on.

I wouldn't have to wait long to get it.

Bobby and I had each had one last script that would be delivered by our Popples writers tomorrow. As we straightened our desks, ready to head for home, my phone buzzed. I picked it up to hear Lori saying, "Dress nice tomorrow morning."

I playfully retorted, "I dress nice every morning."

Bobby glanced at me quickly, then back to the briefcase he was packing.

Through the phone line, Lori quipped, "Smart ass."

I smiled at her familiarity, then asked, "What's going on?"

She answered, "Some people want to meet you. We'll leave here at eleven."

Realizing if she wanted me to know more she would have told me, I said, "Okay."

After I hung up, Bobby asked, "What's up?"

I quoted Lori. "'Some people want to meet me'." I picked up my briefcase and left for home, pretty sure Bobby would be climbing the walls with curiosity tonight.

I found Lori's "Some people want to meet you" deliberately vague. Lori liked to pull this stuff on her writers once in a while. She had a tough job and I think every so often she wanted to show us all who was in charge...as if we didn't already know. I also thought it amused her to good-naturedly make us squirm a bit.

"Dress nice" was a different matter. It was a broad statement and confusing. If I wore a suit and tie I'd risk looking overdressed. If I showed up in jeans and a work shirt I'd look under dressed. So I opted to play it safe, going for the middle ground when I arrived the next morning in dress slacks, a starched, open-collared white shirt and a sports coat. Lori said, "You look nice."

I repeated, "I always look nice."

She smiled, got up from her desk, uncharacteristically attired in a gray business suit paired with a conservative white blouse, and said, "Yes, you do."

I forced a smile and asked, "Where are we going?"

Grabbing her briefcase, Lori answered "Mattel" and walked from her office. I followed her, conscious of my heart pounding.

HOROSCOPE

FEBRUARY 5-11, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

A very unpredictable vibe is taking shape, creating some unexpected happenings on your socail scene. Be prepared to do things differently when you interact with people and don't be surprised if they act out of character or have changed their stance on a previously agreed upon issue.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Make power moves but guard your people. That means taking a stance against maniputlation tactics and not capitalizing on the weaker or less equiped. Keep your work environment centered on productivity with heart. Release people from obligations you know they cannot handle and bring in help.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Unexpected is the word for you now. You can expect to be pushed out of solitude or some of the work you have done behind the scenes to be publically recognized now. Either way there will be a lot happening that will cause you to be more foreward thinking or more publically minded.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The energy coming your way will be causing a shift in your interactions with others. You will become more informed and more involved. This is the time to protect your intrests. You will have the ability to impact outcomes because you will be blessed with the ability discern what is fiction and what is fact.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Partners may be dealing with instability or might surprise you by being more assertive which will make things unstable for you. It may be time to let them have some space or let them out of certain obligations until they get things settled. Protect your peace of mind by letting go of expectations.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You will be surprised by the unexpected opportunity to travel, get involved in public matters and interact with the more intellectually or politically connected. Even though there will lots of opportunity to show your talents or skills, it is imporatnt to be protective of your personal opinions and experiences.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

There will be some very unexpected romantic and quirky creative energy coming your way. Be ready to go against the grain or approach problems with alternative procedures. There is a sense you might have to take some risks but ultimatley it is about trying new things and trusting more. Lighten up and have fun.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Be careful around the house as there is some very unpredicatble energy coming your way. Don't get carried away company or let just anybody come over. Protect your spcae and keep things to a dull roar. It's better for you to travel or visit so, you won't have to deal with a mess or the cost of hosting.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Be very mindful of the things you say rihgt now because the energy is very unstable and you might create a problem that doesn't need to exist. Understand that situations have the propensity to get out of control quickly and there is need to monitor your level of involvement because this could be a slippery slope.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It's time to do what you know needs to be done. Even if it is not what you normaly do, or if it means doing things with different people, just do it. Know that the uncertainty prinible is at work and it might feel like you are taking a big risk but you will be blessed with freindship and unknown supporters.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

The vibe coming your way is all about being on guard and protecting situations from getting out of control. So, make changes where you. Take full responsibility by making amneds if, it is possible. Otherwise, leave it alone. Don't waste your energy on situations that cannot be controlled.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Don't go chasing waterfalls. Stick to keeping things low key, private and nonreactive. There will be some conversations taking place now that you will need sit with before you respond or act on. Give yourself time to sit with things because what is being said will make for a lot of changes and a lot of work.

To know oneself is to study oneself in action with another person. — *Bruce Lee*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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2					6			
	7		5		3			
6		7	4		9		5	
8	4			2			6	
	9			6		3	8	
			7					5
		6					4	

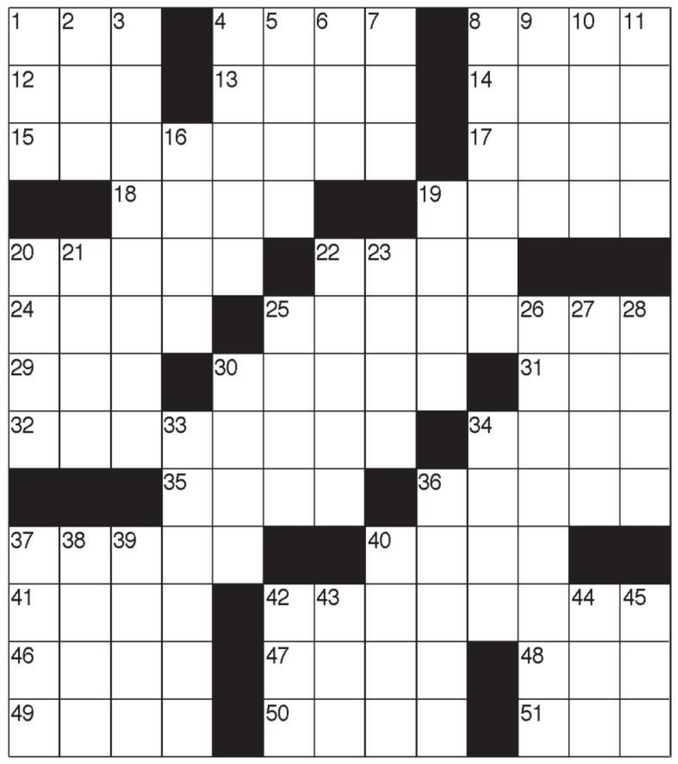
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Male cat
4 Bull (pref.)
8 Babist
12 Jamaican dance music
13 Ironwood
14 Equal (Fr.)
15 Caucasian carpet
17 Son of Loki
18 Cornmeal
19 Papal court
20 Oily ketone
22 Parent of Seth
24 House (Sp.)
25 Jay (2 words)
29 Presidential nickname
30 Father of Rachel
31 No (Scot.)
32 Of the bank of a river
34 Chin. dynasty
35 Above
36 Fr. historical provinces
37 Seed
40 Bright-colored fish
41 Alb (arch.)
42 Sweet red wine
46 Cheese
47 Agnomen
48 Comparative (suf.)
49 Galway Bay isles
50 Above (Ger.)
51 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Tongue-clicking sound
2 S.A. tuber
3 Monkey
4 Cup (Fr.)
5 Proceedings
6 Diminutive (suf.)
7 Kidney (pref.)
8 Stupefy
9 Culture medium
10 Adriatic seaport
11 Lower intestine
16 Sayings (suf.)
19 Basse-Normandie city
20 Adjective-forming (suf.)
21 Noted physicist
22 Brit. saint
23 Double
25 Pressure (pref.)
26 Emblem
27 Teem
28 Mound of sand
30 Gait
33 Soup vessel
34 Blue Nile source lake
36 Scot. court officer
37 Textile fiber
38 Vibratory sound
39 Fetish
40 Era
42 S.A. herb
43 Science class
44 Afr. cotton garment
45 Age



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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

LOVE YOUR LIVER

Your liver has one of the biggest jobs in your body. It has over 500 responsibilities to keep us healthy and alive. It is the filter for our blood so the toxins and harmful substances don't get to the rest or our organs. It converts nutrients from food into energy. It removes bacteria and virus from our blood. It is our central to metabolism and endocrine balance. It is our metabolic processing plant. It converts T4 to T3 for our thyroid. It regulates and balancesiron in our blood. It breaks down and removes excess hormones, to prevent toxic accumulation.

Your liver is the only organ in your body that is adaptogenic. It can adapt to all of our physical, chemical, and emotional stress without us even knowing that it is working on our behalf behind the scenes.

It can even regrow itself. It is our only organ that has this ability. In cases of liver donation or cancer surgery, up to 75% of the liver can be removed, and the remaining portion will regenerate to its original size within 6 months. It has many amazing capabilities that helps keep us alive.

It can repair damage from acute injury such as overdose. But it does have its limitations. Persistent abuse from alcohol, poor diet, medications, obesity, or chronic disease and environmental toxins can damage the liver beyond its capability to regenerate.

Once your liver starts getting bad, you can bet the rest of your body will follow quickly. So, as you can see, it is very important to love your liver by giving it what it needs to stay healthy.

With all that our liver does for us, maybe we should not take it for granted, but take better care of it. It is somewhatforgiving, so let today be the day that you start treating it better. Love your liver and it will love you in return.

Here are just some liver friendly foods that areimportant for you to keep this organ in top notch health. beets, apples, avocado, cruciferous vegetables, leafy greens, berries, garlic, onions, nuts, olive oil, citrus fruits,brown rice, oats, green tea and more. Please research foods for your liver.

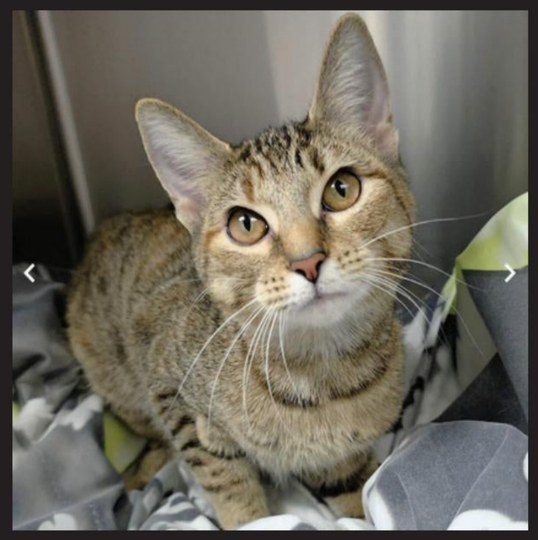
Being that the liver filters out toxins like arsenic, leadand mercury that is rampant in our foods and environment, here is a great chelating heavy metal detox smoothie recipe. This will help pull toxins out, bind them, and safely eliminate them through our body's eliminative channels. Providing you are not continually putting more back in.

In a blender add 2 frozen bananas, 2 cups frozen wild blueberries, 1 cup fresh cilantro, 1 teaspoon barley grass juice powder, ½ cup beet, 1 teaspoon spirulina, 1 tablespoon Atlantic dulse, 1 cup pure orange juice, 1 cup water or coconut water. Blend till smooth and creamy. Do this a few days in a row, while also eating liver healthyfoods and ridding processed foods, alcohol, caffeine and sugar.

Do your own research to see if this is right for you.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK



BLONDIE

Hide your blankets if you adopt this one. Blondie loves to curl up in and under anything. She is about eight months old, almost six pounds, is spayed with her vaccinations up-to-date. Seriously, once Blondie warms up, she'll warm up to you, especailly on your lap with a blanket. She has lived around other cats, so that may not be an issue. Make Blondie part of your home today.

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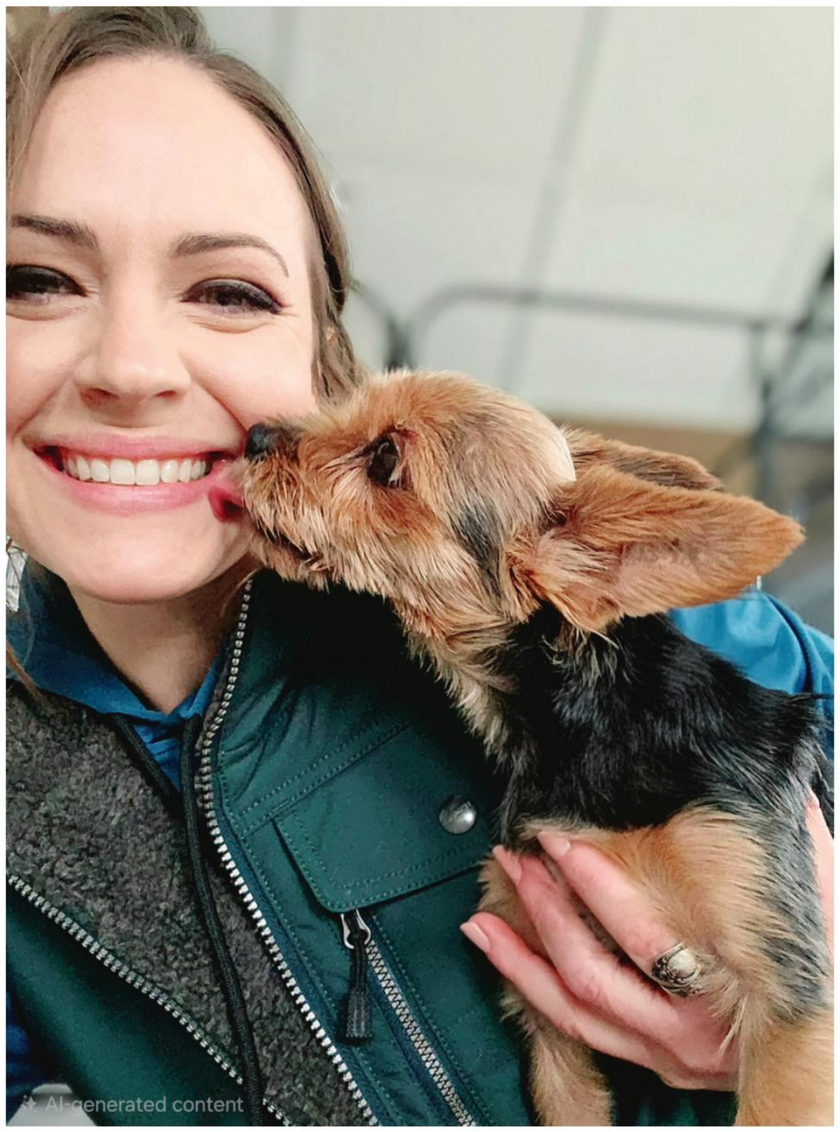
B	R	I	E	■	N	A	M	E	■	I	O	R		
A	R	A	N	■	U	B	E	R	■	A	B	A		

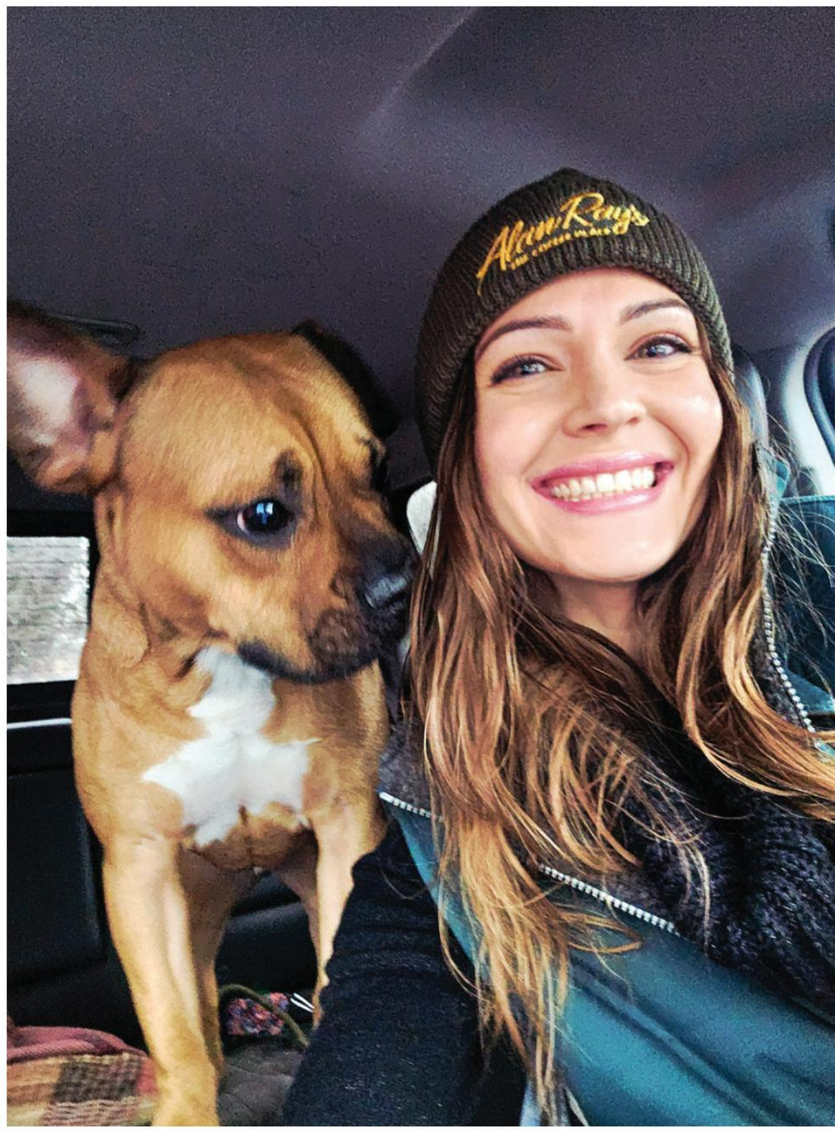
DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – William David Darbyshire, 82, of Galien passed away on Sunday, February 01, 2026. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

THREE OAKS – Ruth Ann Zabel, 88, of Three Oaks passed away on Sunday, February 01, 2026. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —





New business offers personalized pet care

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Since Erica Rae has always been around animals, one could say that it was inevitable that she would start a pet service one day.

"It's easy for me, it's natural…Since animals have been a part of me my entire life, it's easy to step into," she said.

Rae started Harbor Country Hounds, which offers a variety of services to pet parents: traveling to client homes for daily walks, overnight stays while the pet parent is away, transportation services for pets to appointments.

During overnight stays, Rae, who's bonded and insured, can stay in the home and give dogs evening feedings, administer medications, give a short evening walk and then do breakfast feedings in the mornings before dealing with other clients during the day and returning at night.

She also provides daily walks, as well as transporting dogs to the groomer, vet (providing that clients have a card on file) or whatever other appointment that's needed for those who can't get away during the day.

Rae can also provide dogs with a simple bath and pop into the home for a mid-day pet check, especially for senior dogs who need medication. For high-energy breeds, a walk with your dog through a nearby Chikaming Open Lands preserve or a small-town stroll, which includes a trip to Good Catch in Three Oaks and a treat, are also offered.

"We're making it fun – it's more than just a walk, it's an experience for your pet, too," Rae said.

Rae also does overnights for cats, or daytime visits to the house to scoop the litter box, check for food and water and have playtime.

Before launching Harbor Country Hounds," Rae volunteered with Animal Lovers, fostering a dog and giving medications to cats and preparing them for adoption at PetSmart, where they had cats and dogs who were up for adoption. She also worked at the former Welcott Farm and worked at Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Buchanan.

Rae said she grew up on a farm, where she was surrounded by all kinds of animals – chickens, dogs, cats, llamas and horses. She's had dogs and cats her whole life, with her first cat coming from a litter of kittens on the farm.

Rae's current dog, Von, who's a pocket bully, is her "everything."

In addition to animal-related work," Rae was also part of a family business, raised a family and homeschooled her children for several years, worked in retail and did office work.

"I got a little taste of many experiences," she said.

Besides interacting with animals, Rae said she also has a passion for working with people. She hopes she can relieve people of the stress when the situation where their pet needs care arises, as boarding kennels can be stressful for many pets.

"In this capacity, I'm not just helping people with their pets but in times of need being there for people when they have family emergencies, celebrations or things like that to just be able to take a little bit of weight off their shoulders," she said.

She said clients should contact her for a meet and greet to ensure the animal's individual needs are met.

"What I love is being on that personal connection and being able to bond with these pets as well, so I'm not just someone coming in – I'm a familiar face and they look forward to it as well…I love animals and I love getting to know their personalities because they are each different,"" Rae said.

For more information on Harbor Country Hounds, contact 269-363-9939 or harborcountryhounds@gmail.com or www.harborcountryhounds.com (which should be live soon). Also, follow Harbor Country Hounds on Facebook.

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